CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. - 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving credits at a first device transferred from a second device over a channel-based switching fabric;

storing the credits in a credit register, a number of available credits in the credit register indicating to the first device a number of receive buffers available in the second device, wherein the credits are transferred across the channel-based switching fabric under control of the second device using a remote direct memory access (RDMA) write operation into the credit register;

if [[a]] the number of available credits is at least sufficient to permit a transfer of data to occur, transferring the data from [[a]] the first device to [[a]] the second device over the channel-based switching fabric; and

if the number of available credits is not sufficient to permit the transfer to occur, waiting for a change in the number of ~~available~~ the credits to occur prior to transferring the data from the first device to the second device over the channel-based switching fabric.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein:

the number of available credits represents one or more buffers available to store the data.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein:

the first device comprises an input/output node; and

the second device comprises a host device.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein:

the first device comprises:

a first interface to issue one or more commands to initiate establishment of a connection between the first device and the second device, and to post one or more data transfer requests to one or more queues; and

a second interface capable of, in response to the one or more data transfer requests, issuing the data from one or more buffers to the second device.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein:

the first interface comprises a virtual interface; and

the second interface comprises a network interface.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein:

the first interface is capable of issuing the one or more commands to a kernel agent.

33. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

maintaining a counter in the first device; and

updating the counter each time data is transferred to the second device, wherein the number of available credits in the credit register is equal to a difference between the counter and the credit register.